Western Theo: Sem: Dec 30th 1834

Beloved Brethren

Our usual time for writing to your Society has arrived: and I sit down to address you a few lines principally because we are very desirous of maintaining the friendly and to us profitable correspondence which has hitherto existed between us. The wants of a perishing world have no doubt been often laid before you. The imperious obligations of christians have been held up and exhibited in all their bearings. To attempt any thing by way of exhortation to increased activity and more entire consecration to the cause about which we propose to be inquiring, would be quite superfluous. I will therefor content myself with the statement of a few facts.

The number of students in attendance at our Seminary this session is about 33 all of whom are members of the Society of Inquiry. The missionary spirit, which we trust is the true spirit of christianity, is gradually increasing becoming more active and decided among the students generally. Of our number ten have already decided that it is their duty to go and preach Christ to the heathen. Others are inquiring with a sincere desire to ascertain their duty; a number of whom I have no doubt

will come to the same decision. The state of feeling is such that no brother feels himself at liberty to dismiss the subject without a prayerful examination of his duty to the heathen. And indeed considering the flood of light that has lately poured in upon the church what Theological Student that would pass by this subject without a thorough investigation can have any claim to be a disciple of the Lord Jesus? — The tone of piety throughout the Seminary is evidently higher than it was last session — — The following facts though unconnected with our society will not I trust be uninteresting to you. A protracted meeting has been held in Pittsburg for the last four weeks at which the Spirit of God has evidently been present. The number of those who profess to have given their hearts to the Lord Jesus since the meeting commenced is about 120. I would remark that throughout the meeting the distinguishing doctrines of our Standards were preached as well as the duty and obligations of sinners.

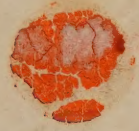
I have just seen and conversed with a student of Jefferson College who informed me that a powerful work of Grace has commenced there. About 60 students have manifested a deep anxiety for their eternal welfare. of whom 10 or 12 hope that they have passed from death unto life. We rejoice greatly in this information and hope it is the commencement of a more glorious time. Yet we would rejoice with trembling lest this anxiety should pass away like the morning cloud or the early dew. — Brethren we feel that there is a peculiar propriety in praying that

these young converts be consecrated to the cause of missions. I drop the suggestion to you to be used as you think proper —

In behalf of the Society of Inquiry on missions of the U. S. —

P. M. Orr Assist
Cor Sec

From Loc. of Sag. in Western Thes. Serv.
Rec'd Jan 7th 1835



Mr. Thomas Hughes
Choctaw Agency
Red River
Arkansas Ter.

Single

Office of Indian Affairs
Washington
Jan 3

The Society of Enquiry.
Theological Seminary
Princetown
New. Jersey

University of Edinburgh
April 9th 1852

Dear Brethren

Your letter of the 21st January last was duly received and we gladly avail ourselves of an opportunity of continuing a correspondence which has been so agreeable to us both. Permit us to return you our thanks for the interesting information your letter contains: and to reciprocate those sentiments of gratification at the increasing prosperity of your Association which you have so warmly expressed in reference to ours.

We rejoice to learn that the number of those among you who are preparing for the Ministry is so materially augmented, and especially that you are joining among you and carrying with you to the good work a excellent spirit.

We deeply sympathise in that Christian zeal which has prompted so many of you to go forth as heralds of the Gospel in foreign lands: and we pray that the evidence of your success may be speedy and abundant, and that the numerous and trying obstacles in your progress to which you allude to may ere long be transformed into encouragements and aids. The life of a Minister in whatever Clime is and in whatever circumstances is one of sacrifice: but we know that the yoke is light and the service easy after all. and that there is no man who hath left Brethren or Sisters or Father or Mother

or Wife or Children for Christ's sake and who shall not receive even in this time an hundred fold although tempered with afflictions. and in the world to come eternal life.

For ourselves we have reluctantly been compelled in a great measure, to abandon our active operations in the foreign field. Hitherto we have devoted the greater part of our Funds to the support of the Missionary cause in India. Insurmountable difficulties have however attended us so that various schemes which seemed at first to promise well have proved to be failures. Under these circumstances we have resolved to confine ourselves for the most part to Home operations: and we have accordingly allocated the most of our income to the support of a Chapel in this City. situated in a district where religious destitution very widely prevails. and which therefore affords the most ample scope for the personal exertion of our individual members. In addition to this we continue to maintain the School which was established by us in Argyleshire last year; and we are happy to be able, to report its most flourishing and prosperous condition. We have secured the services of a highly Efficient Teacher who imparts to upwards of 130. pupils the elements of a sound education based upon strictly religious principles: and we have the additional satisfaction of reflecting that but for our aid the place would be almost entirely destitute of the means of instruction.

We also continue to devote a small sum to the support of the Churchis Missionary Institutions in Madras and Bombay. and although the fruits of this scheme have not as yet been very apparant. we trust that our

work

work may there be progressing in secret and silence which ere long shall be manifest before all the world.

Our Weekly Meetings for Prayer and mutual instruction have this year been unusually successful. The increased attendance of the students has evinced that their interest in such subject is more awakened: and we are glad to think that it is not only our students of Theology but many of the junior members of the Literary Classes whose sympathies are thus excited. We have listened to most interesting and important addresses on various subjects both from Members of our Association and from Ministers and Missionaries of our Church. We have had our attention particularly directed to India. and to the call for Labourers in our American Colonies, as also in the contemplated mission to the Asiatic Churches. These have been pressed upon us by Gentlemen who have themselves laboured in those fields: and we have every reason to believe that their earnest appeal to the Members of the Association to go forth to the lands where religious destitution and gross idolatry reigns will induce not a few of us when the proper time has arrived to leave our native shores that we may carry to all people the glad tidings of peace.

We rejoice therefore Brethren that we are able to say that the work which is so vigorously progressing with you is not at a stand with us; and we pray that over all the world the Gospel may more and more advance; and that in whatever the nations of this earth may differ, they may all be at one in mourning each other's hastening that day when all the kingdoms shall be united under Christ.

We have lately been gladdened by the announcement that war has ceased: we trust that it may be very long

before

before its direful sound shall again be heard - and that no efforts shall be wanting on any part to maintain that tranquility in all quarters which has so auspiciously been restored to us: so that every energy may henceforth be concentrated in that mighty contest which shall end in the overthrow of the Kingdom of Darkness.

We hope to hear from you should we be spared to enter upon another the duties of another session - meantime with every wish for your prosperity and success we bid you heartily Farewell

In name and by appointment of the Edinburgh University Missionary Association

J. B. M. Niven Secretary

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